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Case RN97075  
5-1-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of: Bruno LANGLOIS

National Phase of PCT/98/01514

International Filing Date: July 10, 1998

Examiner:

Serial Number:

Art Unit:

Filed: January 14, 2000

For: FLUIDS FOR USE IN OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING  
DEACETYLATED XANTHAN GUM AND AT LEAST ONE COMPOUND  
INCREASING THE IONIC STRENGTH OF THE MEDIUM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of filing fee, please enter the following amendment in the  
specification and claims:

In the specification:

Page 1, just after the title, please add: - - This application is an application  
under 35 U.S.C. Section 371 of International Application Number PCT/FR98/01514,  
filed on July 10, 1998.- -

Page 22, line 1, please cancel "CLAIMS" and replace it with - -What is claimed is:- -

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 21 and add the following new claims 22 to 44:

22. A guar-free fluid for use in oil production, comprising a deacetylated xanthan  
gum in the form of a polypentamer, combined with at least one compound  
which increases the ionic strength of the fluid.

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